

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figs. 1 and 2 are being presented as replacement sheets to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheets containing Figs. 1 and 2. The drawing Figs. 1 and 2 have been amended.

The specific change which has been made to Fig. 1 is that the figure has been labeled as "Prior Art".

The specific change which has been made to Fig. 2 is that the figure has been labeled as "Prior Art".

REMARKS

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-15 are present for examination.

Drawings:

The Examiner stated that Figures 1-2 should be designated by a legend such as “Prior Art” because only that which is old is illustrated.

Figs. 1 and 2 have been amended to be labeled as “Prior Art” in accordance with the Examiner’s suggestion.

Therefore, the drawings, as amended, are believed to be in compliance with the requirements of MPEP § 608.02(g).

Specification:

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: (i) page 3 recites reference 4, but reference 4 is not shown in the specification; and (ii) the numeral “404” in page 10 should be “804”.

The specification has been amended on page 3 to show “reference 4”. Also, the specification has been amended on page 10 to change the numeral “404” to “804”. The specification has been further amended to correct other minor informalities.

The disclosure is objected to because: (i) in page 1, reference 1 is referred to with an embedded hyperlink; and (ii) in page 3, reference 2 is referred to with an embedded hyperlink.

The specification has been amended to include text references for references 1 and 2, and the embedded hyperlinks have been deleted from the specification.

Therefore, the specification, as amended, is believed to be in compliance with the requirements of MPEP § 608.01.

Claim Objection:

Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informality: “B” in line 2, claim 4 should be deleted.

Claim 4 has been amended, and “B” has been deleted from line 2.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101:

Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

With respect to claims 11-15, as amended, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 11 has been amended to recite, “A storing device storing a program which, when executed on a computer, causes the computer to perform an image expanding method”.

Computer programs embodied in a tangible medium are patentable subject matter under 35 U.S.C. 101. (*In re Beauregard*, Fed. Cir. App. No. 95-1054).

Therefore, independent claim 11, as amended, is believed to be in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101. Because they depend from independent claim 11, dependent claims 12-15, as amended, are believed to be in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101 for at least the same reasons that independent claim 11 is believed to be in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112:

Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner stated that, “[t]he claims recite a computer program product ... [t]here is not adequate teaching for the claims ... [n]o codes are disclosed.”

With respect to claims 11-15, as amended, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 11 has been amended to recite, “A storing device storing a program which, when executed on a computer, causes the computer to perform an image expanding method”.

Support for such a storing device is found in the specification as filed (e.g. page 10, lines 3-18; Figs. 3, 5, and 6).

Therefore, independent claim 11, as amended, is believed to be in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. Because they depend from independent claim 11, dependent claims 12-15, as amended, are believed to be in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112 for at least the same reasons that independent claim 11 is believed to be in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103:

Claims 1-3, 6-8, and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsubara (U.S. Patent App. Pub. No. 2002/0057843).

Claims 4-5, 9-10, and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsubara in view of JPEG2000 Image Coding System: Compound Image File Format (hereinafter JPEG2000 CIFF).

With respect to claims 1-15, as amended, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites an image expanding apparatus, comprising:

“coding parameter detecting means for detecting coding parameters from an image code, said image code including a plurality of layout objects, each layout object of said plurality of layout objects including a plurality of tiles, said coding parameters including a number of layout objects of the plurality of layout objects that are in a particular page;

expanding parameter designating means for designating expanding parameters, said expanding parameters including a number of particular layout objects to be displayed in an expanded image;

extracting parameter calculating means for calculating extracting parameters based on the coding parameters and the expanding parameters, said extracting parameters including (i) one or more certain layout objects of the plurality of layout objects that are necessary for providing the expanded image and (ii) for each layout object of the one or more certain layout objects, one or more particular tiles of the plurality of tiles of the layout object that are to be used to provide the expanded image; and

code extracting means for extracting a code necessary for obtaining the expanded image designated by the expanding parameters from the image code with reference to the extracting parameters.” (Emphasis Added).

Matsubara neither discloses nor suggests an image expanding apparatus including the above-quoted features for at least the following three reasons.

First, Matsubara neither discloses nor suggests the claimed feature of, “coding parameter detecting means for detecting coding parameters from an image code, said image code including a plurality of layout objects, each layout object of said plurality of layout objects including a plurality of tiles, said coding parameters including a number of layout objects of the plurality of layout objects that are in a particular page”. (Emphasis Added). The Examiner points to paragraphs 0066 and 0101 of Matsubara as disclosing a “coding parameter detecting means”, and states that, “[t]he level numbers are the coding parameters.” (Office Action; page 5).

However, the Matsubara reference does not even consider image code that includes a plurality of layout objects. (Matsubara; abstract). Rather, Matsubara is merely concerned with decompressing a single image, and neither discloses nor suggests layout objects. (Matsubara; abstract). Moreover, determining a decomposition level to which decomposition-level-type inverse wavelet transformed is performed as in the system of Matsubara is completely different than detecting coding parameters from an image code where the coding parameters include a number of layout objects of a plurality of layout objects that are in a particular page. (Matsubara; paragraphs 0066 and 0101). This is because

a decomposition level in the system of Matsubara provides no information about a number of layout objects that are in a page. (Matsubara; paragraphs 0066 and 0101).

Second, Matsubara neither discloses nor suggests the claimed feature of, “expanding parameter designating means for designating expanding parameters, said expanding parameters including a number of particular layout objects to be displayed in an expanded image”. (Emphasis Added). The Examiner points to paragraphs 0066 and 0101 of the Matsubara reference as disclosing an “expanding parameter designating means”, and states that, “[t]he determined image size is used to designate levels ‘i’ and ‘i+1’”. (Office Action; page 6).

However, it is important to understand that a determined image size that is used to designate levels “i” and “i+1” in the system of Matsubara is completely different from designating expanding parameters where the expanding parameters include a number of particular layout objects to be displayed in an expanded image. (Matsubara; paragraphs 0066 and 0101). This is because a designated level in the system of Matsubara provides no information about a number of particular layout objects to be displayed in an expanded image. (Matsubara; paragraphs 0066 and 0101). Indeed, a search of the Matsubara reference reveals that Matsubara does not even mention layout objects. (Matsubara; abstract).

Third, Matsubara neither discloses nor suggests the claimed feature of, “extracting parameter calculating means for calculating extracting parameters based on the coding parameters and the expanding parameters, said extracting parameters including (i) one or more certain layout objects of the plurality of layout objects that are necessary for providing the expanded image and (ii) for each layout object of the one or more certain layout objects, one or more particular tiles of the plurality of tiles of the layout object that are to be used to provide the expanded image”. (Emphasis Added). The Examiner points to paragraphs 0066 and 0101 of the Matsubara reference as disclosing an “extracting parameter calculating means”, and states that, “[t]he level numbers related to the determined image size are calculated.” (Office Action; page 6).

However, it should be understood that determining level numbers as in the system of Matsubara is completely different than calculating one or more certain layout objects of a plurality of layout objects that are necessary for providing an expanded image. (Matsubara; paragraphs 0066 and 0101). Also, determining level numbers as in the system of Matsubara is completely different than calculating for each layout object of one or more certain layout objects, one or more particular tiles of a plurality of tiles of the layout object that are to be used to provide an expanded image. (Matsubara; paragraphs 0066 and 0101). Indeed, a search of the Matsubara reference reveals that Matsubara does not even mention layout objects. (Matsubara; abstract).

Therefore, independent claim 1, as amended, is neither disclosed nor suggested by the Matsubara reference and, hence, is believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 6 recites an image expanding method with features similar to features of an image expanding apparatus of independent claim 1 and, thus, is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 11 recites a storing device storing a program which, when executed on a computer, causes the computer to perform an image expanding method with features similar to features of an image expanding apparatus of independent claim 1 and, thus, is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

The dependent claims are deemed allowable for at least the same reasons indicated above with regard to the independent claims from which they depend. With respect to dependent claims 4-5, 9-10, and 14-15, it is noted that the JPEG2000 CIFF reference does not cure the deficiencies discussed above with regard to the Matsubara reference. Rather, the JPEG2000 CIFF reference merely discusses the file format for images using the JPEG 2000 file format. (JPEG2000 CIFF; Section 1; Figure A-1). Therefore, the Patent Office has not made out a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

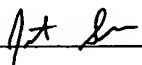
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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